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[Inclosure.]

VERA CRUZ, MEXICO, July 1, 1899.

SIR: In reply to yours of June 29, which was received to-day, will state that I have seen the agents here of both the Mexican and the Interoceanic railroads and asked them for their cooperation in ascertaining the names and destination of passengers from this place. This they claimed was not within their power, but suggested that for a consideration the conductors would furnish the agent in the City of Mexico with the names of passengers from Vera Cruz to the city. Not being authorized or in a position to offer a compensation for the assistance of the conductors, and placing no reliance on their reports, I have dictated a copy of the inclosed letter to the superintendents of the two railroads. In reference to your memorandum relative to Mr. Body and disinfection, will state that in an interview with him I learned that Pearson & Sons have sent him a superheating steam disinfecting outfit, but it has not yet arrived. Mr. Body has nothing to do with the railroads, but is willing to assist me in any way that he can. From a railroad official I learned that the conductors would not be likely to report any names of passengers except those that had purchased through tickets. Cash fares and deadheads would not be reported for various reasons. For the past two months I have tried to find a passenger for the States via railroad but have not been successful.

I have asked the assistance of the railroad officials, and have spoken to several who I thought contemplated the trip, but always without success. The prevalent opinion seems to be that the quarantine is an American institution of annoyance, established solely for the inconvenience of the Mexican public, and it is their duty to beat it if they can.

The fever report for the past month is as follows: Four hundred and seventy-one cases and 191 deaths. The daily number of cases and deaths fluctuates considerably, but the weekly average shows no indication of a let up in the epidemic. The disease has made its appearance among the shipping, but is at present confined to one Spanish sailing vessel. The result of the communication with the railroad superintendents I will forward you immediately upon receipt.

Respectfully, yours,

SAM'L H. HODGSON,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Report on the inspection service in Mexico City.

MEXICO, MEXICO, July 10, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that our work of identification of passengers and disinfection of suspected baggage goes into formal operation to-day. Up to the present time we have inspected and issued certificates to 43 passengers. In addition to this number, 2 passengers were passed after disinfection of baggage, and 3 passengers are being detained here prior to disinfection of baggage. Express packages from infected points carried by the Interoceanic Express Company will be disinfected here; those carried by Wells Fargo Company will be disinfected by Sanitary Inspector Alexander at El Paso, Tex. I leave to-morrow for San Luis Potosi, and will report on the conditions at that place.

Respectfully, yours,

L. E. COFER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Instructions to acting assistant surgeon at Monterey.

MONTEREY, MEXICO, July 13, 1899.

SIR: I have this day nominated you as an inspector, United States Marine-Hospital Service, at Monterey, Mexico, subject to the approval of the Supervising Surgeon-General, United States Marine-Hospital Service. Your duties will be as follows:

First. You will endeavor in every way to keep me informed as to the health status of the city of Monterey.